

POLITICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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so conservative as progress, nothing so dangerous as trying to stand still. " My disposition has for'ways been favourable to compromise and moderation/' His life-long gospel had been the old Whig toast, " the cause of civil and religious liberty all over the world." The Tories, he declares, cared little for it and the Radicals were too doctrinaire. How could a Russell be anything but a progressive Whig ?

When Garibaldi's fighting days were over with the unification of Italy the old lion of Caprera put his reminiscences, written at various times, into final shape. Published post-humously in 1888, they should be studied in the edition of 1932, where they form the second volume of the collection of his writings edited by the Royal Commission. Like many other political autobiographies they are a programme as much as a record. The Preface, written in 1872, strikes the note of the book. The Bayard of the Risorgimento was the champion of national and political liberty everywhere. Tyranny, he declares, is the chief cause of evil. Republicanism is the normal system of government because it is desired by a majority and for that reason is not imposed by force. Yet there was no need to try to impose it on communities who enjoyed free institutions under another form, for instance England under Victoria, It is because he regards clericalism as a bulwark of tyranny that he denounces it with passionate contempt. " In all my writings I have always attacked clericalism, because I have always regarded it as the prop of all despotism, vice and corruption. The priest is the personification of lying. Il prete! Ah ! questo è il ver-o flageiolo di Dio." Needless to say he excepts the humble priests who rallied to his cause, some of whom gave their lives for the liberty of their

country.

The young sailor from Nizza visited Rome at the age of 18 and conceived an undying love for the Eternal City. Rome is the symbol of united Italy, and the most infernal work of the Papacy was to keep it divided, morally and materially." These words, he tells us, were written in 1849^{an<^} copied out with approval in 1871. During the fourteen years in South America the vision of a free and united Italy never left him, and in 1848 he returned from Montevideo with sixty-three comrades to take part in "the holy war." The story of the heroic defence of Rome against French troops, known to English readers from the prose epic of George Trevelyan, was set down shortly after his escape from a country once again subject to the Austrians,